

**REMARKS**

Claims 55-62, 64, 65, 67, 71, 83, 89-91, and 103-105 are pending. Claims 1-54, 63, 66, 68-70, 72-82, 84-88, 92-103, and 106 are cancelled. Claims 55, 64, 65, 67, 71, and 83 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and claims as filed and as indicated below.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Interview of August 18, 2011 and for the Examiner's proposed amendments. The amendments reflected in claims 55, 64, 65, and 83 are those that were proposed by the Examiner during the interview. Applicants have amended claims 67 and 71 differently from the amendments proposed by the Examiner. For the reasons below, Applicants believe the amendments to claims 67 and 71 traverse the existing rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim 67 has been amended to recite:

The system of claim 55 or 60, further comprising a pressure control device in fluid communication with at least one microchannel, for controlling positive and negative fluid pressure to at least one microchannel.

Amended claim 67 differs from the Examiner's proposed amendment by reciting "a pressure control device in fluid communication with at least one microchannel. . . ." and by not reciting "for pumping fluid in and out of the microchannel."

Similarly, claim 71 has been amended to recite:

The system of claim 55 or 60, wherein the microchannel in the microfluidic system is in fluid communication with a multiwell plate through one or more external tubings or capillaries.

Amended claim 71 differs from the Examiner's proposed amendment by reciting "the microchannel in the microfluidic system is in fluid communication with. . . ."

The amendments obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the amended claims are not indefinite. "In fluid communication" refers to the device's ability to receive or transfer fluid between the recited components. *See e.g.*, specification at ¶[0117].

In light of the amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: February 23, 2012

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Respectfully submitted,

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